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MEMORANDUM

To: Rachel Loftin, EPA Region IX
From: William E. Ritthaler, URS Consultants
Subject: Completed Work
cc: Lisa Macchio, Site Assessment Manager

Attached is the following completed:

PA: ☒ PA Review: ☐ SI: ☐ ESI: ☐ SIRE: ☐

Other: Preliminary Assessment Summary Report

Site Name: Stauffer Chemical Company (Alias ICI Americas)

CAD 080709553
EPA ID#: ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~

1200 S. 47th Street
Richmond, CA

Latitude: 37° 54' 45" N
Longitude: 122° 19' 45" W

City, County: Richmond, Contra Costa County

State Recommendation:
(for reviews only)

For EPA Use Only

CERCLIS Lead: F | PA - 1 Complete | NFA - SEA 10.2.92

W. E. Ritthaler

1159

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CAD 080709553 (1613)
EPA ID#: ~~2100000000~~

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PA-1 Complete / NFA-SEA 10.2.92
huong 10/9/92 - - 1 - L&P

Purpose: Preliminary Assessment Summary Report

Site: Stauffer Chemical
1415 South 47th Street
Richmond, California
Contra Costa County

AKA: ICI Americas

ICI Americas

Site EPA ID Number: ~~CAD 080709553 - 1415 South 47th Street~~
CAD080709553 - 1200 South 47th Street

URS Investigators: John P. Zwierzycki
Kenyon A. Larsen

Report Prepared By: John P. Zwierzycki

Report Reviewed By: William E. Ritthaler

Review/Concurrence: William E. Ritthaler

Report Date: June 29, 1992

Submitted To: Rachel Loftin
EPA Region IX
Work Assignment Manager

Introduction

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region IX, under authority of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act of 1980 (CERCLA) and the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act of 1986 (SARA), has tasked URS Consultants, Inc., (URS), to conduct a Preliminary Assessment (PA) of the Stauffer Chemical Corporation (Stauffer) site in the city of Richmond, Contra Costa County, California.

The purpose of this PA Summary Report is to review existing information on the site and its environs, to assess the threats, if any, posed to public health, welfare, or the environment, and to determine if further investigation under CERCLA/SARA is warranted. The scope of the PA includes the review of information available from federal, state, and local agencies, and performance of an on-site reconnaissance visit.

The Stauffer site located at 1415 South 47th Street in Richmond, California (EPA ID# CAD009123456) was identified as a potential hazardous waste site by EPA and entered into the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Information System (CERCLIS) database on November 1, 1979. The site again came to EPA's attention through a Region IX industry-based site discovery project conducted in 1990-1991 under the name ICI Americas located at 1200 South 47th Street in Richmond, California (EPA ID# CAD080709553). EPA's site discovery project identified several key facilities for assessment, including agricultural chemical formulators, manufactures, and applicators.

Both 1200 and 1415 South 47th Street are located within the boundary of the Stauffer property (1906 to 1986) which has been operated by ICI Americas Inc. since 1990. In 1987 both properties were evaluated by the EPA in a PA for Stauffer at 1415 S. 47th Street. URS began its investigation of the site under the ICI Americas name, EPA ID# CAD080709553, and address of 1200 S. 47th Street. URS will continue its investigation of the site under the Stauffer Chemical Company name (EPA ID# CAD009123456) located at 1415 S. 47th Street. Activities conducted at both addresses by all past and current operators will be evaluated in this PA Summary Report.

Site Description

The Stauffer site is bordered to the north and east by Meade Street, to the south by an unnamed tidal marsh and the San Francisco Bay, and to the west by 46th Street (see attached Site Location Map). The geographic coordinates of the Stauffer site are 37° 54' 45" North latitude and 122° 19' 47" West longitude; Township 1 North, Range 5 West, Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian (1).

Stauffer is a 75-acre site located in an industrial/commercial area of Richmond, California. The site is relatively flat and contains tank complexes, office buildings, railroad spurs, maintenance buildings, warehouses, research laboratories, and a greenhouse (see attached facility map). The site is currently used to formulate, produce, distribute, and research agricultural chemicals.

In the late 1800's the site was formerly utilized by the Mountain Copper Company, a copper smelting operation. In 1897, Stauffer purchased the site and by 1906 had begun chemical production operations. Stauffer produced a variety of industrial and agricultural chemicals until 1986. In 1986, Chesebrough-Ponds purchased the site from Stauffer. Chesebrough-Ponds and the Unilever Corporation were consecutive owners of the

property between 1986 and 1990. In 1990, ICI Americas Inc., purchased the site and is the current site owner and operator (2).

Wastewater generated by site operations and laboratory operations was released to 5 surge ponds on the Stauffer site. Wastewater flowed from the surge ponds into two evaporation ponds. After passing through the evaporation ponds, wastewater was released into the adjacent tidal marsh. Between 1906 and 1974, wastewater was not treated prior to release to the tidal marsh. During this period, an estimated 100,000 gallons of untreated wastewater was released to the tidal marsh on a daily basis. Since 1974, wastewater has been passed through a carbon adsorption system prior to release to the settling and evaporation ponds. In 1987, this wastewater discharge system was overhauled and wastewater entering the evaporation ponds is now discharged, via pump and pipe, to the Richmond publicly owned treatment works (POTW). After 1987, runoff water during heavy storm events is designed to flow into the tidal marsh if the 4,000,000 gallon surge capacity is exceeded (2).

Several settling pond overflow incidents have been documented between 1960 and 1987. Wastewater discharged to the adjacent tidal marsh during these overflows contained such compounds as Eptam, Sutan, Tillam, Ordram, Devrinol, Vapam, and toluene (3,4,5). Compounds detected in evaporation pond sediments include aluminum up to 570 milligrams per liter (mg/l), arsenic up to 7.3 mg/l, copper at up to 2.6 mg/l, and zinc at up to 38 mg/l. Additional contaminants detected in settling and evaporation pond sediments include heavy metals, thiocarbamates, and organophosphates (5,6).

Several documented fish kills have occurred due to releases of contaminants from the Stauffer site. In 1960, the Stauffer Chemical Company was required to pay civil damages to the California Department of Fish and Game due to a fish kill (7). The adjacent tidal marsh is potentially used as habitat by up to nine federally protected species (see Table 1).

Table 1
Potential Sensitive Species Near Stauffer Chemical Company

<u>Species</u>	<u>Scientific Name</u>	<u>Federal Status</u>
California black rail	<u><i>Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus</i></u>	Category 1
California clapper rail	<u><i>Rallus longirostris obsoletus</i></u>	Endangered
California least tern	<u><i>Sterna antillarum browni</i></u>	Endangered
tidewater goby	<u><i>Eucyclogobius newberryi</i></u>	Category 2
salt marsh harvest mouse	<u><i>Tethrodontomys raviventris</i></u>	Endangered
salt marsh wandering shrew	<u><i>Sorex vagrans halicoetes</i></u>	Category 1
San Pablo vole	<u><i>Microtus californicus sanpabloensis</i></u>	Category 1
San Francisco forktail damselfly	<u><i>Ischnura gemina</i></u>	Category 2
Point Reyes bird's beak	<u><i>Cordyanthus maritimus palustris</i></u>	Category 2

A landfill area in the southwestern portion of the site was used to dispose of cinders produced as waste from copper smelting activities at the Stauffer site. Cinder waste has been found to contain heavy metals. The cinder landfill is located adjacent to another tidal marsh north of the site (2,8).

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) is the lead agency for the Stauffer site. RWQCB originally adopted waste discharge requirements for the Stauffer site

in April 1963, and amended in 1972. A National Pollutants Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit was issued to Stauffer in 1973. The NPDES permit was reissued in December, 1984, and amended in July, 1987. In April 1986, RWQCB informed Stauffer of a violation of its NPDES permit due to bypass incidents that occurred in February, 1986. Due to noncompliance to the San Francisco Basin Plan, a Cease and Desist Order was issued regarding the NPDES permit violation by the RWQCB in February, 1988 (9).

Summary of Preliminary Assessment Activities

Initial PA activities performed by URS include contacting federal, state, and local regulatory agencies, collecting information regarding hydrogeologic conditions, surface water uses and population data, and performing a site visit. HRS factors pertinent to the site are:

- A release of contaminants attributable to Stauffer Chemical Company has been documented to the tidal marsh adjacent to the site.
- Habitat for up to nine federally protected species exists in the adjacent tidal marsh.
- An estimated 100,000 gallons of untreated wastewater were released to the tidal marsh on a daily basis between 1906 and 1974.

EPA Recommendation

	Initial	Date
Site Evaluation Accomplished under CERCLA	<u>AS</u>	<u>10-2-92</u>
Higher-Priority SI under CERCLA	_____	_____
Lower-Priority SI under CERCLA	_____	_____
Defer to Other Authority (e.g., RCRA, TSCA, NRC)	_____	_____

*For records/
CERCLIS purpose
the 1200 So 47th St
property under the ICI
Americas name is closed (SSA).
The entire facility
is being evaluated under the
Stauffer name at the 1415 So 47th St.
address, EPA ID: CAD 009123456.
R. Lottin
10-2-92
FL*

References

1. U.S. Geological Survey, 7.5-minute topographic map of Richmond, California, 1959 (photorevised in 1980).
2. Fields, Kevin, Marita McLaughlin, and John Riley, ICI Americas, Inc., and John P. Zwierzycki and Kenyon A. Larsen, URS Consultants, Inc., Site Reconnaissance Interview and Observations Report, June 9, 1992.
3. Regional Water Quality Control Board, *Executive Officer Summary Report*, June 18, 1986.
4. Braufman, Arthur, Stauffer Chemical Company, to Joanne Cox, California Regional Water Quality Control Board, letter re: treatment system bypass incidents, March 13, 1986.
5. Singer, Harold, Regional Water Quality Control Board, to David Selph, Stauffer Chemical Company, letter re: treatment system bypass incidents, March 31, 1986.
6. Stauffer Chemical Company, *Waste Discharge Report*, June 18, 1972.
7. California Department of Fish and Game, News release, January 22, 1960.
8. California Department of Health Services, *Abandoned Site Project, Site Information Summary, Stauffer Chemical Company*, August 1981.
9. Phalen, Kathleen, *Recommendations for Further Action*, ICF Consulting Associates, Inc., May 21, 1987.

Contact Log

Facility Name: Stauffer Chemical Company

Facility ID #: CAD009123456

Contact	Affiliation	Phone #	Date	Information
Rebecca Balanesi	Contra Costa County Environmental Health	(510) 374-3141	3/9/92	No drinking water wells are located in Richmond. Drinking water is supplied by East Bay Municipal Utilities District.
Doris Cruz	California Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Toxic Substances Control (Cal EPA DTSC)	(510) 540-3800	4/9/92	Ms. Cruz told URS that a request should be faxed to her regarding file information, including site name and address.
Jerry Rosner	Contra Costa County Occupational Health Hazardous Materials/Toxics Division	(510) 646-2286	4/9/92	Ms. Rosner told URS that extensive files were available for ICI Americas (formerly Stauffer Chemical).
Rochelle Walker	Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD)	(415) 749-4784	4/22/92	Ms. Walker informed URS that ICI Americas currently holds permits for two incinerators, and that an extensive site file is available.
Emmanuel Okeroeke	California Regional Water Quality Control Board - San Francisco Bay Region	(510) 464-0618	6/16/92	An extensive file is available on ICI Americas and Stauffer Chemical. This file includes a Solid Waste Assessment Test report completed on a landfill area, underground storage tank information, and information regarding the Alum Mud Pond.
Alan Friedman	California Regional Water Quality Control Board San Francisco Bay Region	(510) 464-0618	6/16/92	Mr. Friedman told URS that detectable levels of herbicides and heavy metals have been found in wastewater discharged from the Stauffer site into the unnamed tidal marsh.

Contact Log (cont.)

Facility Name: Stauffer Chemical Company
Facility ID #: CAD009123456

Contact	Affiliation	Phone #	Date	Information
Michelle McKibben	California Environmental Protection Agency, DTSC	(916) 255-2123	6/23/92	Ms. McKibben told URS that Stauffer Chemical was referred to the Regional Water Quality Control Board on April 24, 1987, and the site no longer has State Superfund Status.
John Riley	ICI Americas, Inc.	(510) 231-1328	6/23/92	Mr. Riley told URS that the carbon column treatment of wastewater became operational at the beginning of the first quarter of 1974.

Site Reconnaissance Interview and Observation Report

Site Information CAD009123456

Name: Stauffer Chemical
Address: 1415 S. 47th Street
City, State, Zip Code: Richmond, California 94804
Phone Number: (510) 231-1328
Contact Name: Mr. John Riley
Date of Site Visit: 6/9/92

URS Site Visit Team: Kenyon A. Larsen
John P. Zwierzycki

Site Representatives

Name :	John E. Riley	Title	Plant Manager
	Kevin Fields		Former Plant Manager
	Marita McLaughlin		Attorney

Comments and Observations

Information gathered during the interview with John Riley, Kevin Fields, and Marita McLaughlin:

The ICI Americas (ICI) facility is used to manufacture, formulate, and distribute chemical products. The 75-acre site contains areas devoted to research, process technology, engineering services, and production of agricultural chemicals.

The property was bought by the Stauffer Chemical Corporation (Stauffer) in 1897. Stauffer began chemical production operations in 1906. Stauffer manufactured agricultural and industrial chemicals. In 1986, Stauffer sold the site to Cheeseborough Ponds Corporation. The Chesebrough-Ponds Corporation, in turn, sold the site to the Unilever Corporation, and in 1990, the site was purchased by ICI.

Vapam is the only product currently manufactured at the site. Products currently formulated at the site include Ordram, and Devrinol. Products produced by Stauffer at the site included, but were not limited to, sulfuric acid and aluminum sulfate. Aluminum sulfate production was discontinued by Stauffer in 1984.

Prior to 1987, storm runoff and wastewater were discharged to an adjacent tidal marsh after being run through carbon adsorption columns. The carbon adsorption columns remove residual organic contamination from the water. Since that time, wastewater has been directed to the Richmond Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW). ICI currently has approximately 4,000,000 gallons of surge capacity available in 4 retention ponds in case of heavy rains. These retention ponds were relined between 1989 and 1990. In the event of a heavy storm, if the 4,000,000-gallon surge capacity is exceeded, water would then be discharged to the tidal marsh. Wastewater has been run through carbon adsorption columns since 1974 to remove residual organic contaminants. Prior to 1974, wastewater was not treated for organic constituents prior to being released to the tidal marsh.

**Site Reconnaissance
Interview and Observation Report (Continued)**

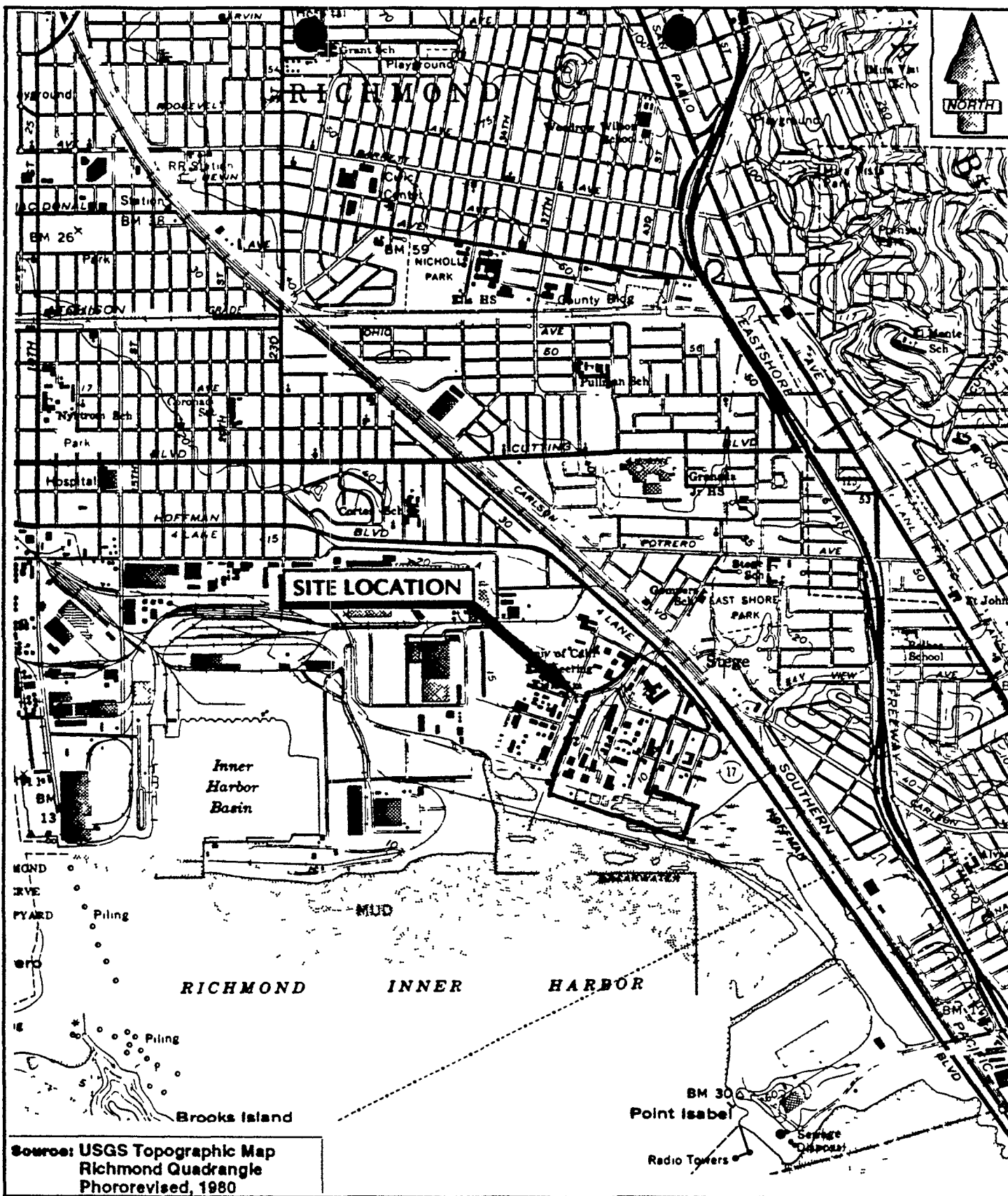
Comments and Observations (continued)

6/9/92

In the 1970's, a landfill area containing cinders was capped with an engineered soil cover. The cinders may have been generated at the site before 1906, and are contaminated with leachable, acidic heavy metals. A Solid Waste Assessment Test (SWAT) overseen by the Regional Water Quality Control Board, was performed on the landfill area and a report was submitted in 1991.

Page 2 of 2

This report was prepared by: _____
(Signature and Date)

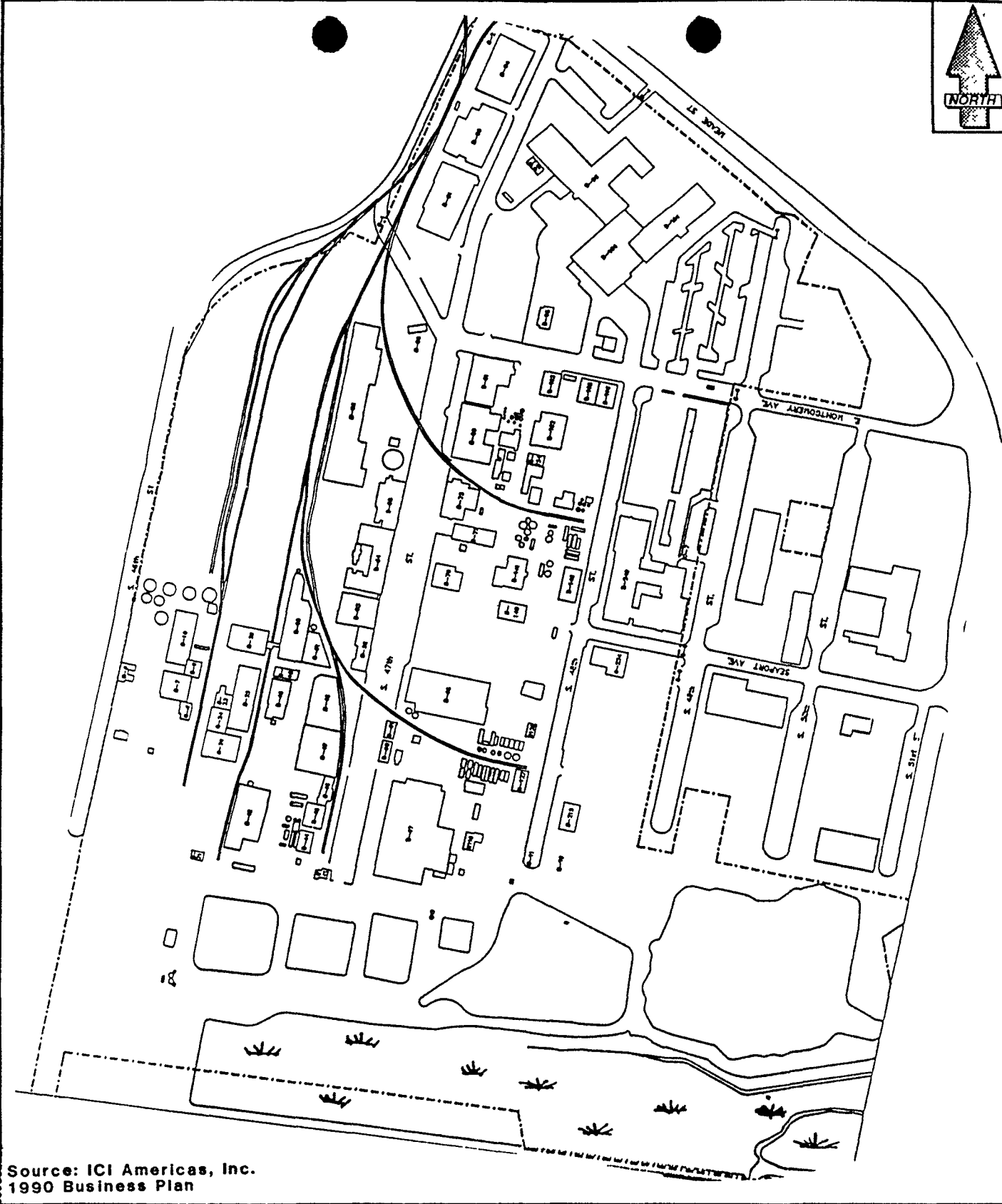


URS Consultants
100 California Street
San Francisco, CA 94111
June 19, 1992

Site Location Map
Stauffer Chemical Company
(ICI Americas)
Richmond, California

FIGURE

1



Source: ICI Americas, Inc.
1990 Business Plan

URS Consultants
100 California Street
San Francisco, CA 94111
June 3, 1992

Facility Map
Stauffer Chemical Company
(ICI Americas)
Richmond, California

FIGURE
2